Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KINGST 03748 182010Z

20
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-04

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06

NSC-05 SCI-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 /049 W
---------- 040648
R 181930Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6067

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 3748

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, JM
SUBJECT: THE RECORD SET STRAIGHT ON DEFOLIANTS

REF: KINGSTON 3011

1. ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, THE PROMINENT JOURNALIST AND COLUMNIST DR. JOHN AKAR CALLED DCM TO "CHECK OUT" SOME FACTS WITH RESPECT TO U.S. NARCOTICS-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN JAMAICA. HIS SO-CALLED FACTS, ON WHICH HE PLANNED TO BASE A STORY FOR THE GLEANER, CONSTITUTED A COLLECTION OF HALF-TRUTHS AND OUTRIGHT FALSEHOODS WHICH COULD HAVE CAUSED MAJOR DIFFICULTIES IF PUBLISHED. FOR EXAMPLE, AKAR SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A REPORT THAT THERE WAS A WAREHOUSE FULL OF "VIETNAM-STYLE DEFOLIANTS" IN KINGSON WHICH THE USG WAS WAITING TO EMPLOY IN JAMAICA AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AMBASSADOR AUTHORIZED DCM TO MEET WITH AKAR FOR AN EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON U.S. NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES IN JAMAICA. DCM MET FOR NEARLY THREE HOURS WITH AKAR ON EVENING OF OCTOBER 16 AND BRIEFED HIM ON USG NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES, DRAWING UPON AND STAYING WITHIN AGREED-UPON STATEMENT AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (REFTEL).

2. ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, THE GLEANER CARRIED A FRONT-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KINGST 03748 182010Z

PAGE STORY UNDER THE HEADING "GOVERNMENT DID NOT GET

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

DEFOLIW T FROM U.S." WE UNDERSTAND THIS IS TO BE THE
FIRST OF SEVERAL ARTICLES BY AKAR ON U.S. NARCOTICS
ACTIVITIES. HEREWITH THE TEXT:
BEGIN TEXT: RECENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN NEWS ITEMS AND
LETTERS ABOUT "VIETNAM-TYPE" DEFOLIANTS BEING BROUGHT TO
JAMAICA. THE GLEANER HAS INVESTIGATED THESE STORIES AND
THE FOLLOWING APPEARS TO BE WHAT HAS HAPPENED:--

AS FAR AS JAMAICA IS CONCERNED DEFOLIANTS HAVE BEEN IN
USE IN AGRICULTURE FOR AT LEAST A DECADE NOW WITHOUT KNOWN
ADVERSE EFFECTS.

"DEFOLIANTS" OR "VIETNAM-TYPE DEFOLIANTS" ARE WORDS
CURRENTLY CHARGED WITH GREAT EMOTIONAL CONTENT AND DO NOT
MEAN WHAT MOST PEOPLE THINK THEY DO.

MODERN TECHNOLOGY HAS PRODUCED A WIDE VARIETY OF CHEMICALS
WHICH AFFECT THE LIFE CYCLE OF PLANTS. MANY FARMERS IN
JAMAICA OFTEN USE "DEFOLIANTS OTHERWISE CALLED "WEED KILLERS"
OR "CRAB GRASS KILLERS." AS THESE DESIGNATIONS IMPLY, THEY
CAN BE VERY SPECIALISED, I.E., THEY CAN BE DESIGNED TO KILL
ONE PLANT AND NOT ANOTHER IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY.

GANJA IS A WEED. IN ITS BIOLOGY AND STRUCTURE, IT IS
SIMILAR TO THE DANELION. THE TRADITIONAL METHOD OF
DESTROYING GROWING GANJA IN JAMAICA HAS BEEN TO ROOT IT
UP, CHOP IT UP, PILE IT UP, SPRAY KEROSENE OR PETROL ON IT
AND BURN IT.

THIS PRACTICE IS STILL IN VOGUE AND IS EFFECTIVE BUT,
ON BALANCE, EXTREMELY LABORIOUS, VERY EXPENSIVE AND INVOLVES
MANY MAN-HOURS OF ACTUAL TEARING-UP.

WHEN THE JAMAICA GOVERNMENT DECIDED, AS A RESULT OF
SPIRALLING GUN AND DRUG CRIMES, TO TAKE JAMAICA OUT OF
THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS BUSINESS, IT SOUGHT A CHEAPER
AND MORE EFFICIENT METHOD THAN THE TRADITIONAL AND EXPENSIVE
SLASH-AND-BURN ROUTINE.

THE JAMAICA GOVERNMENT ASKED THE UNITED STATES GOVERN-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

MENT IF THERE WERE COMMERCIAL WEED KILLERS WHICH COULD BE
EFFECTIVE AGAINS GROWING GANJA WITHOUT AFFECTING OTHER PLANTS
OR CROPS GROWING ADJACENT TO THE GANJA AND WITHOUT DAMAGING
THE SOIL OR CONTAMINATING WATER SUPPLIES OR HARMFUL TO HUMAN
BEINGS.

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPLIED TO THE EFFECT
THAT A NUMBER OF SUCH WEED KILLERS WERE AVAILABLE BUT WITHOUT

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

TESTING IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE SURE WHICH WOULD WORK BEST
IN JAMAICA. CONSEQUENTLY, A SMALL-SCALE TEST WAS CONDUCTED
IN JAMAICA IN JUNE, AT THE REQUEST AND UNDER THE SUPERVISION
OF THE RELEVANT MINISTRIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA.
GANJA SPECIALLY GROWN ON LAND OWNED BY GOVERNMENT WAS
USED FOR THE EXPERIMENT.

IT WAS DETERMINED THAT A COMMERCIAL WEED KILLER, LONG
USED IN JAMAICA FOR WEED CONTROL IN AGRICULTURE, WAS EXTREMELY
EFFECTIVE AGAINS GANJA WHEN SPRAYED FROM THE GROUND
WITHOUT AFFECTING NEARBY CROPS OR CONTAMINATING WATER
SUPPLIES. INDEED, THIS WEED KILLER, KNOWN IN THE US
AS PARAQUOT AND HERE AS GRAMOXONE, IS BIODEGRADABLE AND
CANNOT BE DETECTED IN THE SOIL AFTER A SHORT PERIOD. IT
IS EVEN SAID TO LOSE ITS POTENCY IF DILUTED IN MUDDY WATER*

IN VIETNAM A MORE VOLATILE SUBSTANCE 2-4-5P WHICH IS
TOXIC WAS USED BY AERIAL SPRAYING. IN JAMAICA A SIMILAR
SUBSTANCE HAS ACTIVELY BEEN USED FROM THE GROUND IN KILLING
OUT WEEDS IN RUINATE PASTURES.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NOT PROVIDED DEFOLIANTS
OF ANY CATEGORY TO THE JAMAICA GOVERNMENT, NOR HAS IT LENT
OR GIVEN MONEY FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEFOLIANTS. AS A MATTER
OF FACT, THE "PARAQUOT" USED IN THE TEST OF LAST SPRING WAS
LOCALLY PURCHASED COMMERCIALLY.

ALTHOUGH THE SMALL-SACLE TEST WAS SUCCESSFUL FROM THE
TECHNICAL POINT OF VIEW, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO IGNORE
THE USE OF DEFOLIANTS AND TO CONTINUE TO CONDUCT ITS GANJA
ERADICATION PROGRAMME BY THE TRADITIONAL AND PROVEN METHOD
FOR THE TIME BEING. ONE REASON WAS THAT HUMANS WHO GOT HOLD
OF THE GANJA AFTER SPRAYING AND SMOKED IT MIGHT COME
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 KINGST 03748 182010Z

TO HARM. END TEXT.
HEWITT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DRUG TRAFFIC, TEXT, DRUG CONTROL, DEFOLIANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KINGST03748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740298-0197
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741036/aaaabeov.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KINGSTON 3011
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE RECORD SET STRAIGHT ON DEFOLIANTS
TAGS: SNAR, JM, US, (AKAR, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005